

waters. The taking, sale, or offering for sale of all clams, including soft-shell or mudclams, from San Francisco Bay and tributary sloughs in the counties of Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Contra Costa, Solano, Sonoma, and Marin counties is prohibited, with the exception of the following areas in Marin County: for one mile each side of California Point; the south shore of Tiburon Peninsula on Richardson Bay for one mile north of Belvedere; between McNear Point and Gallinas Creek northerly from McNear Point.

There is always danger in eating shellfish which may be taken from sewage-polluted waters, and the permanent quarantine on clams was established because of the danger of contracting typhoid fever through the consumption of clams taken from such places. This condition is quite different from the toxic condition that now prevails in mussels and clams. . . .

A Spade and an Ax.—Individuals who enter the government forest reserves during the summer season for the purpose of camping are required to take with them a spade and an ax. These useful tools are primarily intended for use in fire prevention, but the spade has an important use from the standpoint of sanitation. A spade, in fact, is an absolute necessity in the maintenance of camp sanitation in those places where no sanitary equipment is provided. It should be used for burying all remnants of food, empty tin cans, old bottles, body waste, and other undesirable material of every description. Accumulations of garbage attract flies and other insects. Garbage should be buried quickly and it should be buried deep, in order that it may not be disinterred by predatory animals. A spade is useful, too, for extinguishing a camp fire. The coals of a camp fire, if buried under six or eight inches of dirt, have little chance to flare up and set fire to the forest. Many of the best and most attractive camping places in the West have been destroyed by campers who were careless in extinguishing their camp fires. In order to have attractive camping places for future use, it is essential that they be not destroyed by fire.

Orange County Health Unit Complete.—With the taking over of the health work of Newport Beach, the Orange County Health Department now covers all territory in Orange County, both urban and rural. Dr. K. H. Sutherland is health officer of Orange County and under his administration the county will now be able to provide full-time public health service to all residents of the county.

The centralization of public health activities in a single unit is highly advantageous to all residents of the county, and the people of Newport Beach are to be congratulated upon this forward action which they have taken.

Carelessness in Making Birth Certificates.—A birth certificate is one of the most important of all legal papers. It is doubtful that any other document possesses greater inherent value to its owner. Its significance is great because it provides its owner with definite proof of his status as a citizen of this republic. It may have great monetary value and its ownership enables the possessor to enjoy many privileges which, without it, might be denied him.

Strange to state, many birth certificates are grossly incorrect and every day in the Bureau of Vital Statistics many affidavits are received which must be applied to correct birth certificates already filed. It is lamentable that many physicians and hospitals exhibit gross carelessness in the preparation of this important document. Sometimes the errors involved are not discovered until many years after the filing of the certificate, at a time when it may be extremely difficult to secure the necessary affidavits to establish the fact of error. It is astounding that on many birth certificates the sex is recorded inaccurately. This type of error has caused an enormous amount of confusion to many individuals who have found that, officially, they are of the opposite sex. . . .

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.
Secretary-Treasurer

News Items

Investigation report relates that on August 12 Hjalmar Groneman, licensed chiropractor, was found guilty before San Francisco Municipal Judge Fritz for violation of Sections 7 and 15 of the Chiropractic Act and was sentenced to thirty days in the county jail, execution of judgment being suspended. "The specific offense charged against Groneman in violation of Section 7 (of the Chiropractic Act) was prescribing. . . . The violation of Section 15 (of the Chiropractic Act) was in using the prefix 'Dr.' on his stationery, without following it immediately with the suffix 'D.C.' or the word 'Chiropractor.'" Section 7 of the Chiropractic Act states that a license to practice chiropractic "shall not authorize the use of any drug or medicine now or hereafter included in materia medica." In the case of Millsap vs. Alderson, 63 C. A. D. 518-532, materia medica has been defined as "substances employed as remedial agents." That licensed chiropractors have no right to use medicinal agents for remedial purposes is again set forth in *People vs. Machado*, 279 Pacific 228.

"Dr. G. E. Grosse, chiropractor, was yesterday afternoon held for trial in Superior Court on a charge of performing an illegal operation on Mrs. Jasper Crowe, 34 Benita Avenue, Santa Cruz. . . ." (Press dispatch dated Santa Cruz, August 9, printed in the *Oakland Tribune*, August 9, 1932.)

"Jules Ross, brought back from Palo Alto, California, pleaded guilty today to attempted forgery in the third degree. The plea was accepted to cover five indictments of forgery in connection with charges that Ross in 1928 had sold forged high school certificates to students, enabling them to enter college in the city of New York. He was remanded to Tombs Prison for sentence August 24. . . ." (Associated Press dispatch, dated New York, August 10, printed in the *San Francisco Call-Bulletin*, August 10, 1932). Another evidence that watchful care against the bogus diploma merchant is still necessary.

A new subjective symptom was disclosed in the following press dispatch dated Los Angeles, August 9, printed in the *San Francisco Examiner* of August 9, 1932: "When a witness commits perjury, a red flame shoots out of his mouth, but only those trained in the psychic can see the manifestation. This was disclosed today as one of the 'secrets' of the late Dr. Edgar L. Colburn, over which two factions of the Colburn Biological Institute are battling in Superior Court. During cross-examination today of a member of the cult, attorneys argued over which way he should face. Both wished to see if any flames leaped from his mouth."

"Dr. J. C. Arnott of Culver City pleaded guilty before Federal Judge Louderback yesterday to giving a false certificate to R. Bush, a war veteran, stating that he had examined Bush prior to 1925 and found him to be tuberculous. The doctor was placed on probation for a year" (*San Francisco Examiner*, July 23, 1932).

The records show that on July 19, 1932, Raymond DeSilva was found guilty in the Justice Court of San Jose on a charge of violation of the Medical Practice Act and was fined \$150, with the alternative of one day in jail for each \$5 unpaid. He was remanded to the custody of the sheriff, pending payment of fine. (Previous entry, July, 1932.)